

# Our Ambassador Has Final Word

Great news. Mr. Chiang Kai-shek has announced that he is going to invade Red China, crush the Peking regime and end the world struggle against Communism. Again.

Each year for the past 16 years Mr. Chiang has made this announcement, usually on or about Yom Kippur. The occasion is Formosa's National Day and it's become quite a tradition. Mr. Chiang reviews his superbly equipped troops and makes the fighting speech. Understandably he never lets slip the date he plans to invade the mainland and as he does not wish to tip his hand.

Actually, it is only the armed might of the United States that has restrained Mr. Chiang thus far. There he is with an army of some 600,000 men. Many of them still under 65. And just across the straits sits Red China with only 2.7 million regular troops and 20 million militiamen. You can imagine the awful struggle our Ambassador must go through each year to keep Mr. Chiang from leaping at his vulnerable enemy's throat.

Scene: A room in the Imperial Democratic Palace. The Generalissimo has just finished his annual fighting speech and is being greeted by the Ambassador.

THE AMBASSADOR: Great fighting speech, sir. Even better than last year's. I particularly liked the change from "however," to "on the other hand" in the 17th paragraph.

THE GENERALISSIMO: Grrrrr.

THE AMBASSADOR: It is a bit chilly here. May I get you your shawl?

THE GENERALISSIMO (annoyed): Grrrrr, not brrrrr. I was indicating my ferocity. When, oh when, are you going to unleash me so that I can lead my fearless fighting men in human wave assaults on that miserable little band of 700 million defectors on the Chinese mainland?

THE AMBASSADOR: Oh, yes, I do recall a campaign in America some years back to "Unleash Chiang Kai-shek!" I wonder whatever happened to that?

THE GENERALISSIMO: I warn you, I cannot contain my men much longer. They're getting tired of doing calisthenics day after day for Life photographers.

THE AMBASSADOR: Yes, I do suppose they prefer their lawn bowling and whist. But I'm happy to report, sir, that we're stepping up our military aid to your fighting troops by another \$100 million in this coming year. Here's the breakdown: \$138 to replace expended ammunition and \$99,999,862 for geriatric care.

THE GENERALISSIMO (angrily): A lousy \$100 million? I've been your loyal ally for all these years and you come around with a chintzy, penny-pinching, sleazy, crum-bum...

The AMBASSADOR (flushing): Look here, Chiang. On behalf of my government, I demand an apology. And if one is not forthcoming, we shall take the most drastic step conceivable.

THE GENERALISSIMO (blanching): You mean...

THE AMBASSADOR (sternly): That's right. We'll unleash you.

But, personally, I like Mr. Chiang's annual fighting speech. It's every bit as good as Mr. Mao Tse-Tung's annual threat to conquer the world and our own yearly resolution by Congress to Free the Captive Nations. I hope the human race goes on making threats like that year after year after year. Considering the most likely alternative.

## County Trustees Group to Meet

Mrs. Kenneth Watts, president of the Torrance Board of Education, will attend the first quarterly meeting of the Los Angeles County Trustees Association at Aviation High School Thursday.

## COUNT MARCO

# Pushy, Shrewish, Nagging Gals

If you're the dominating, pushy, shrewish, nagging type of wife, it's not your fault.

Not being the type who makes irrational observations of such magnitude, I shall now prove it.

The unhappiest wife in the world is the one who not only tells her husband what to do about everything but has to do it all herself as well.

If you're in that category, you find yourself tied to a man who, outside the home, is sneakingly whispering into the ears of other women. "My wife doesn't understand me."

You certainly don't, so let me hasten to explain him to you... ALL men hate responsibility — and particularly detailed responsibility.

Successful men in any enterprise get to the top only because they have learned to discipline themselves in order to survive in a style to which their wives have accustomed themselves.



HONOR AWARDS... Synchronizing in on 40 years of service to steelmaking, George W. Steele, left, and Peter P. DellaMaggiora, center, from Torrance get correct time settings for their new stainless steel watches, honor award symbols presented for long on-the-job records at U. S. Steel's Torrance Works. Absent third member of the "long-timers trio" was Marcel L. Demonet, also a resident of Torrance. William G. Davis, right, general plant superintendent, made the presentation.

# Reforms Needed to Stop 'Illegitimate' Exemptions

By PHILIP E. WATSON, County Assessor

A tax exemption is the elimination of all or part of one's own tax burden by shifting it to some other taxpayer. Addressing the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco recently on property tax exemptions, I began with that definition and then pointed out that we can have both "legitimate" and "illegitimate" exemptions.

Legitimate exemptions are those legally approved by the legislature or the voters. Over the last 115 years in California, freedom from taxes has been extended to such varied categories as agricultural crops, churches, ships of more than 50 tons, private colleges, veterans, traveling exhibitions, welfare organizations, and aircraft undergoing repairs — to name just a few of the more than 30 classes of property now exempt.

Whether one approves of any or all of these exemptions, it must be admitted that the tax shift they produce has been lawfully authorized either in Sacramento or at the polls.

However, there are other ways to shift one's tax burden to someone else — what might be called "illegitimate" exemptions. These fall into two principal categories.

There is the illegitimate exemption enjoyed by a taxpayer who, through no action of his own, gets a tax break as a result of inadequate or bad assessment practice on the part of the assessor. It

was once a common practice to use a lower assessment ratio on residential property than on business property on the theory that corporations don't vote and homeowners do. Some assessors, ignoring the Constitutional mandate that the tax burden go in direct proportion to the value of the property, take it on themselves to redistribute the burden according to their own judgment of how much a person could or should pay.

In ANY jurisdiction where property is reappraised on a once-every-so-many-years cycle, those property owners whose assessments don't increase get a relatively free ride at the expense of those whose assessments are increased. In theory, this might work out fairly over the years if we had a completely stable population which was born, lived, and died in the same place. But in a mobile, urban society, cyclical reassessment is highly discriminatory.

None of these types of "illegitimate" exemptions any longer exist in Los Angeles County, and they are becoming rarer in California as appraisal methods improve and as pressure is brought to bear on the assessor by the courts and the legislature to end the discrimination between types and classes of property.

Then there is the "illegitimate" exemption that has been exposed in the present assessment scandal. Here the taxpayer short-circuits the legal exemption route and,

without any legislative or ballot sanction, manages to transfer a part of his tax bill to his fellow taxpayers by the simple expedient of "exempting" himself.

THE USUAL arena for this practice is in business inventories and equipment. In most counties, major businesses are required to declare the book value of their property and the assessment is made on the basis of this declaration. Any variation from the cost figures in the company's records subjects the company to penalties, if it is caught. When the potential tax saving is significant and the company has reason to think he won't be caught, the temptation to self-exempt is strong.

This type of cheating is almost impossible for the public to detect. Inventories and equipment can vary substantially and legitimately from year to year in any business. Even if there were such a thing as a Citizens' Watchdog Committee, assigned to compare business assessments from year to year, there would be no way of knowing whether a sudden drop in an assessment was an honest or dishonest change. Even if the committee had access to the company's property declaration, this information would be of little value unless one could compare what was declared with what is actually on the company books.

Such "illegitimate" exemptions can occur without the knowledge of the assessor, through flaws in the administrative operation of his office.

OR THEY can occur with the knowledge of the assessor — a practice known as "collusion" if no money changes hands, and as "bribery" when it does.

But regardless of how these self-exemptions occur, the net effect is the same — persons who have no legal right to property tax relief are avoiding their fair share of taxes at the expense of the innocent taxpayers.

As I told the Commonwealth Club audience, we assessors must take the responsibility for closing any loopholes in our own operations through which these illegitimate exemptions can slip. We must also take the lead in seeking sound legislative reforms to afford maximum assurance to the taxpayers that these loopholes will stay permanently closed.

## NEAR FREEWAY

Plans for a five-acre subdivision which will contain 28 single-family lots have been approved. Owner Dan E. Butcher of 2371 Torrance Blvd. submitted the plans. The property is west of the Harbor Freeway and south of Torrance Boulevard.

## Ann Landers Says

# The Repulsive Bit Works Both Ways



Dear Ann Landers: I am a 17-year-old girl who agrees with what you said about that high school boy who put blonde streaks in his hair. This is not just my own opinion, but the opinion of every girl I have talked to today.

We all feel that boys are becoming too feminine. A boy who would streak his hair is repugnant, abhorrent, insufferable, repulsive, nauseating, loathsome, offensive, disgusting, and icky.

How can males expect females to respect them if they get themselves up to look like women? Don't they realize their greatest attraction is that they are the opposite sex? You have my permission to print my letter and I hope you do. — THUMBS DOWN ON BLEACHED BLONDE BOYS

Dear Thumbs: Thanks for your views. And now I'd like to remind you girls that your greatest attraction is that you are members of the opposite sex. Girls who get themselves up to look like boys are repugnant, abhorrent, insufferable, repulsive, nauseating, loathsome, offensive, disgusting, and icky.

Dear Ann Landers: For the past three days I've received a telephone call between 11 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. A cultured voice says, "I think you should know your husband is having an affair with his office manager." Then I hear a click and the party leaves the line.

I've never had cause to suspect my husband of stepping out on me. He comes straight home from work and rarely goes anywhere without me. His office manager is a divorced woman who is raising

three children. She is dignified and reserved and has worked for my husband for five years.

I know I should put these calls out of my mind but I can't. I haven't told my husband because it might upset him. The phone company says they can't trace a call unless the party stays on the line for 20 minutes. I need some guidance. — UNNERVED

Dear Unnerved: Tell your husband some nut has been calling you with a wild story about him and his office manager and you think he should be aware of it. Then get an unlisted phone number.

Dear Ann Landers: I asked for your advice four years ago and didn't take it. Today I am writing to tell you I am sorry. When you advise other girls not to force a marriage because a baby is on the way, I hope they will listen to you. I was only 16, scared, ignorant and so ashamed of having disgraced my family that I couldn't hold my head up, much less give them an argument. My father went to see Dan's father and they practically dragged him to the justice of the peace.

Our marriage has been a living hell from the beginning. Dan walks in and out of our flat without telling me where he's going. He gets phone calls from girls who think I am his sister. They leave telephone numbers and ask that he call back. I can't count the number of times I've washed lipstick out of his shirts. Dan doesn't care about the baby and says she may not be his.

Our pastor calls the situation hopeless and says I should divorce Dan and start life

over. If I had listened to you I could have saved myself four years of agony, and my baby would have had a decent home with both a mother and a father. Please print my letter. It may help someone else. — STUBBORN AND SORRY

Dear Sorry: Unfortunately many people have to get their own lumps. They don't learn any other way. I hope the future holds brighter days for you and the little one. Good luck.

Dear Ann Landers: We have close friends who are of a different faith. They are very fond of our children and the feeling is mutual.

In the past year these friends have been giving our children religious medals and objects which are symbolic of their faith. We've said nothing but we feel this is a slap at our beliefs. We would never give our children a different faith OUR religious literature or anything pertaining to it. The friendship of this couple is important to us, but so are our own convictions. Please give us some level-headed advice. — A TOUCHY SUBJECT

Dear Touchy: These friends are paying your children a high compliment by giving them objects which have great meaning to them.

The medals need not be worn and the religious objects need not be displayed. Accept the gifts in the proper spirit — and then put them away.

Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of The Press-Herald enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope. C 1965, Publishers Newspaper Syndicate

# Press-Herald Sunday Crossword

(Answer on Page A-7)

- ACROSS
  - 1-Backbone
  - 6-Make
  - 11-Luck of hair
  - 16-Mine
  - 21-Piece cut to fit into
  - 22-City in Italy
  - 23-Forgive
  - 24-Sublet
  - 25-Before
  - 26-Scorch
  - 28-Asial
  - 30-Expressions
  - 31-Highway
  - 32-Note of scale
  - 33-A state (abbr.)
  - 34-Word for "friend"
  - 35-Unit of currency
  - 36-Difficult
  - 37-Mile
  - 38-Quide's high note
  - 40-Newly married woman
  - 42-Falsehood
  - 43-Shut up
  - 44-Healthy
  - 45-Expire
  - 47-Continued story
  - 49-Pastboard
  - 50-Relax (abbr.)
  - 51-Character
  - 52-Swear solemnly
  - 56-Angry
  - 58-Cut of meat
  - 60-Cavoured
  - 62-Pear
  - 64-Cupola
  - 65-Sun god
  - 66-Preposition
- DOWN
  - 1-Cubic meter
  - 2-Danger
  - 3-Suffix: like
  - 4-Negative
  - 5-Abstract being
  - 6-Trumpeter
  - 7-Scorn
  - 8-Answer
  - 9-River in Italy
  - 10-Abel
  - 11-Commonplace
  - 12-Lease
  - 13-Prize's measure (pl.)
  - 14-Spanish for "yes"
  - 15-Single thread
  - 16-Edible fish
  - 17-Bushy clump
- ACROSS
  - 67-Ethiopian
  - 69-One of Three Musketeers
  - 70-Planet
  - 71-Container
  - 72-Soak
  - 74-Cotton thread
  - 76-Lamprey
  - 77-Father
  - 78-Wind spirally
  - 79-Order of insects
  - 82-Short length of pipe
  - 84-Carpenter's tool
  - 85-Takes unlawfully
  - 86-Organ of hearing
  - 88-Want
  - 89-Word of sorrow
  - 90-Separate
  - 92-Overthrow
  - 94-More
  - 95-Deaf
  - 96-Mature
  - 99-Woody plant
  - 100-Uncooked
  - 102-Bend
  - 103-Musician
  - 104-Obtained
  - 105-Fruit drink
  - 106-Propriety
  - 108-Saints (abbr.)
  - 109-Chaldean city
  - 110-Eutopic deity
  - 111-Sea in Asia (abbr.)
  - 112-Relax (abbr.)
  - 114-Nahoor sheep
  - 116-Fruit drink
  - 117-Helios shoe
  - 118-Edible seeds
  - 120-Cravata
  - 121-Deans of
  - 122-Palsifer
  - 126-Doctrines
  - 128-Beverage
  - 129-Covers
  - 131-Walk unsteadily
- DOWN
  - 18-Old Testament (abbr.)
  - 19-Part of flower
  - 20-Omit from pronunciation
  - 27-Organ of hearing
  - 29-Shore bird
  - 31-Worthless
  - 32-Direction leaving
  - 36-Possessive pronoun
  - 37-Pastive
  - 38-Man's name
  - 40-Greek letter
  - 41-God of love
  - 42-Vocally
  - 43-Chess piece
  - 44-Plant
  - 46-Two (Roman numeral)
  - 113-Sow
  - 48-Speak
  - 49-Cries like
  - 50-Goal
  - 51-Sharp-pointed projection
  - 52-Hindu queen
  - 53-Carnavalesque
  - 55-Musical instrument
  - 56-Ripped
  - 57-Run off
  - 58-King of birds
  - 61-Direction
  - 62-At the time
  - 64-Challenge
  - 65-Railroad car
  - 70-Besomes covered with fungi
  - 71-Brags
  - 72-Small tower
  - 73-Tennis strokes
  - 75-Wipe out
  - 77-Variety of wheat
  - 78-Group
  - 80-Decays
  - 81-Exist
  - 83-Vigor (colloq.)
  - 84-Real estate map
- DOWN
  - 87-Strips of leather
  - 89-Agreement
  - 90-Boy
  - 91-Greek
  - 92-Mountain of Europe
  - 93-Satiate
  - 94-Mountain island
  - 95-Musical study
  - 96-More unusual
  - 99-Fresh-water duck
  - 101-Season of year
  - 105-Wire nail
  - 106-Hind part
  - 107-Norse god
  - 111-Totals
  - 112-Transaction
  - 113-Sow
  - 115-Sandara tree
  - 116-Arabian seaport
  - 118-Bow
  - 119-Desk
  - 121-Unproductive
  - 122-Ma's nickname
  - 123-Linked condescendingly
  - 124-Story
  - 127-Platforms
  - 128-Depth
  - 130-Girl's name
  - 131-Female ruff
  - 132-Doomed
  - 134-Female
  - 135-Bury
  - 137-Plague
  - 139-Let it stand
  - 140-Creases
  - 144-It is (contr.)
  - 145-Pale
  - 146-Corded cloth
  - 147-Metal
  - 148-Rodent
  - 149-Dutch town
  - 151-Cooled lava
  - 153-Chinese mile
  - 154-Roman gods
  - 157-A state (abbr.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21						22				23							24		
25				26	27					28	29				30	31			32
33						34					35					36			37
38	39	40						41	42				43					44	
		45	46				47					48						49	50
51	52					53	54					55					56		57
59				60	61			62				63				64			65
66						67	68			69					70				71
72	73	74								75					76				77
79										81	82				83				84
										85					86				87
90	91									92					93	94			95
															98	99			100
104															101	102			103
															104	105			106
110															107	108			109
															110	111			112
117	118														113	114	115	116	
															117	118			119
															120	121			122
															123	124			125
129	130														126	127			128
															129	130			131
138															132	133			134
															135	136			137
143															138	139			140
															141	142			143
148															144	145			146
															147	148			149
150	151														149	150			151
															152	153			154
158															154	155			156
															156	157			158